

What is a Master Plan?

The Master Plan guides Corps of Engineers management of federal government-owned lands (but not waters) at Falls Lake. The Master Plan is written specifically for Falls Lake and covers all land resources of the project. The proposed Master Plan Update ensures that all needed environmental considerations are incorporated, with equal attention given to economy and quality in the development of new recreation facilities.

How is a Master Plan Made?

The primary components of the Master Plan are:

1. regional and ecosystem needs,
2. project resource capabilities and suitabilities, and
3. expressed public interests and desires.

Master Plans Include:

- Visitation projections and future recreational needs.
- Future land allocations and land management strategies.
- Natural and cultural resource assessments.

Master Plans Do Not Include:

- Modifications to existing leases on project lands.
- Changes to resource management plans.
- Management of waters.

Creation of a complete Master Plan Update involves three phases:

Phase 1: INFORMATION GATHERING – Suggestions are gathered from the general public and government agencies about their perspectives of needs for land management and operations options and alternatives. Information is compiled into an outline format to be used to develop the Draft Master Plan.

Phase 2: DRAFT MASTER PLAN – a draft Master Plan is written using information gathered during Phase 1, but not yet including conclusions and recommendations. An Environmental Assessment is written to help determine the best alternative for implementing the proposed Master Plan. New suggestions are gathered from the general public and government agencies regarding the draft Master Plan.

Phase 3: FINAL MASTER PLAN – The final Master Plan is completed, including conclusions and recommendations. The Environmental Assessment is included, along with a Finding of No Significant Impact, to clear the way for implementation.

What Phases will be done for Falls Lake, and what is the schedule?

Under the current effort, the Falls Lake Master Plan Update will include only Phase 1, INFORMATION GATHERING – to be completed by approximately April 2010.